

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-68 (Canceled)

69. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein that has (i) an amino acid sequence which has at least about 95% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO: 2 and (ii) lysyl oxidase activity.

70. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein ~~further~~ comprises four ~~copies of a~~ scavenger receptor cysteine rich (SRCR) domains having a an amino acid sequence at least about 80% identical to a the amino acid sequences ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6 ~~and comprises a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7.~~

71. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 70, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein ~~encoded for~~ comprises four ~~copies of a~~ scavenger receptor cysteine rich domains having a the amino acid sequences ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

72. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, which is a cDNA.

73. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein ~~encoded for~~ has ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~as depicted in~~ of SEQ ID NO: 2.

74. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 73, which is a cDNA.

75. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 73, which comprises a the nucleotide sequence of ~~as depicted in~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.

76. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 75, which is a cDNA.

77. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 69.

78. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 70.

79. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 73.

80. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 75.

81. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 77, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein is expressed in response to estrogen.

82. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 77.

83. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 78.

84. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 79.

85. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 80.

86. (Previously presented) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 82, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

87. (Previously presented) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 83, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

88. (Previously presented) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 84, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

89. (Previously presented) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 85, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

90. (Currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of no more than 100 nucleotides, which oligonucleotide comprises a sequence of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of 0.2x SSC at 68°C; 50% formamide, 4xSSC at 42°C; ~~or under conditions that afford levels of hybridization equivalent to those observed under either of these two conditions~~ with a nucleic acid having a the nucleotide sequence of ~~as depicted in~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.

91. (Currently amended) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90, wherein at least 30 nucleotides are contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1.

92. (Currently amended) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90, which is no more than 60 nucleotides in length.

93. (Currently amended) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90, which is no more than 50 nucleotides in length.

94. (Currently amended) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90 which is detectably labeled.

95. (Currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of no more than 100 nucleotides, which oligonucleotide consists essentially of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of 0.2x SSC at 68°C; 50% formamide, 4xSSC at 42°C; ~~or under conditions that afford levels of hybridization equivalent to those observed under either of these two conditions~~ with a nucleic acid having a the nucleotide sequence of ~~as depicted in~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.